

am I going to do as a state senator? I have got to deal with the change. And I have listened to these arguments, and at one time I thought Senator Schmit was absolutely correct because he has been beautifully eloquent, and I thought Senator Abboud was absolutely correct because he is speaking about a world that I have loved and enjoyed.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Beautifully eloquent, but in the end, I know I have got to vote for the change and I have looked at the bill like Senator McFarland has, but looked at it from a little different eyes. I believe that essentially the Public Service Commission is engaged in a legislative function and not a judicial function. I have looked at what I think is fair to the customers, and though it will be hard in the end for me to go to my residential voters and say your rates will go up, I will have to say that is because of the change that was worked, that is because of the earthquake at the federal level, and if we don't respond, if we don't respond, we will discover a further deterioration of the great institutions that were built over the last 50 years. It is for that reason I am supporting LB 835. I think I even hear a tremble in my voice because I know it is a tough bill. It is a tough issue. It is hard to know what is right in the face of change, but I believe this is the correct approach for what truly is a very significant problem, not just for Nebraska, but for every state.

PRESIDENT: Senator Morehead. Senator Rod Johnson is next. Not yet, Senator.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Have to listen to me first, Rod. Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, needless to say, I, too, note the quietness that is within this Chamber today and every speaker that has preceded me has done an eloquent job of expressing their own personal views on this issue. This is a difficult issue and every one of them have expressed that and I am no exception to that rule. I really do want to vote for this bill. I want to vote for it because I recognize the positions that the telecommunications industry...where they find themselves. I understand the frustration that a business that makes a business decision feels when they then go to a governmental regulatory agency and cannot have action on that business decision. When you make a business decision, you make it and then you act. You don't make it and then sit around, and ponder it, and worry, and think about what is going to happen to